

Melanoma Research Alliance

Melanoma Research Alliance Hosts Benefit Dinner at Sotheby's to Raise Funds for Groundbreaking Melanoma Research

Washington, DC, November 9, 2015 – The [Melanoma Research Alliance](#) (MRA), the leading private funder of melanoma research, raised \$5.8 million to directly fund world-class melanoma research at the fourth biennial benefit dinner at Sotheby's in New York. The event was held Thursday, October 29.

The evening drew more than 200 MRA supporters to Sotheby's New York City headquarters. Attendees celebrated recent advances in melanoma research, including two new approvals by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration in recent weeks, while enjoying beautiful art in an iconic setting.

"We are grateful for the generosity and dedication of MRA's supporters who helped make this year's event such a success," said Debra Black, MRA Co-Founder and Chair of the Board. "The contributions of our sponsors and individuals ensures continued funding to support translational research to help patients battling melanoma."

The event supports MRA's [Young Investigator Awards](#) program, designed to attract the brightest minds and innovative research to the field of melanoma research. To date, MRA has funded 73 Young Investigators. MRA's research portfolio includes 99 research programs spanning 14 countries. Since MRA's founding in 2007, 10 new therapies have been approved for melanoma and MRA has provided funding for each of them. Therapies that were pioneered in melanoma are now being tested in more than 10 cancer types.

"The benefit at Sotheby's was a true testament to the impact individual donors can have on the careers of scientists, with the ultimate goal of finding treatments for patients suffering from melanoma," said Robin Davisson, Ph.D., MRA's President and CEO-Elect. "It's a remarkable time in melanoma research, and I'm so pleased to be working alongside a dedicated group of researchers, clinicians, and philanthropists to help advance the field."

The event included a seated dinner, brief remarks from MRA's leadership and researchers, and a live auction. Auction items included a Richard Prince painting and JAR earrings. The evening's beverages were generously donated by Southern Wine & Spirits of America. Van Wyck & Van Wyck provided pro bono event planning services. Also announced was the awarding of the Icahn-MRA [Team Science](#) grant, thanks to the generous support of Carl Icahn.

Corporate sponsors include *Innovators* (\$100,000): Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, Goldman Sachs, and Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz; *Collaborators* (\$50,000): Merck & Co.; *Advisors* (\$35,000): US Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management and Sotheby's.

About The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA)

MRA is a public charity formed in 2007 under the auspices of the Milken Institute, with the generous founding support of Debra and Leon Black. MRA is the largest private funder of melanoma research and has provided nearly \$68 million to research seeking to better prevent, diagnose, and treat melanoma, the deadliest type of skin cancer. Due to the ongoing support of its founders, 100% of every dollar MRA raises goes to support its melanoma research program. MRA's ability to fund wide-ranging research in melanoma is amplified by unique

collaborations and partnerships with individuals, private foundations, and corporations. Visit www.CureMelanoma.org for more information, or follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

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Richard Prince painting